

MEMORIAL

CONCERNING THE

Disorders of the Highlands,

ESPECIALLY

The Northern Parts thereof,

And the ISLES of

SCOTLAND.

WITH

*An ACCOUNT of some Means, by which the same
may be Redressed and Prevented, and how Religion
and Vertue may be promoted in these Parts.*

EDINBURGH

Printed in the YEAR M. DCC. III,

MEMORANDUM

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE

THE NATIONAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARCHIVES

WASHINGTON, D. C.

1911



MEMORIAL

CONCERNING THE

Disorders of the HIGHLANDS.

WHEN so many good things are doing for the Interest of the Nation, in the fullest Representative that ever was of it ; It will be a Pity if there shall not some thing be effectually done, for correcting the Abuses, and promoting the Usefulness of the *Highlands*: This being a Matter which all (however differing in other things) must agree to be necessary and expedient; seeing as it concerns about a third part of the Kingdom, so it affects the whole in the Influences and Consequences thereof.

What Disorders are in the Highlands, and how far that Tract of Ground is improvable, for the publick Benefit, tho but faintly apprehended by most Men in this Nation, yet only those who have had Occasion to Travel or Dwell among, or hear them, can have such a livelie Impression thereof, as is proportioned to the true Notion of the Subject now to be considered: For, it's scarce possible to imagine what Disorders Reign there, most of them are utterly ignorant of the very first Principles of the Christian Religion; many of them are altogether Heathenish, not knowing what is Sin or Duty, or any thing of CHRIST; a great part of them have been catch'd (through the Industrie of Popish Priests and Jesuits,) with the taking Trinkets and Licentiousness of Popery; As the Natural Consequences whereof, in some Isles and elsewhere, many Children will be for several Months and Years Unbaptiz'd, Thift and Robbery is esteem'd only a Hunting and not a Crime, Revenge and Murder, especially in what Concerns a Clan, is counted a Gallantrie, Idleness, and not undertaking Husbandrie or Trade, is become a piece of Honour, and blind Obedience to Chiefs or Branches, takes off from any other Influence either of Religion, or the Civil Government.

And all this, notwithstanding that the Countrey might be improv'd to vast Advantages; For there are to be found large Fields both for Corn and Cattle, and very convenient Situations for Harbours, that might encourage Trade, and building Cities, to which Manufacture being added, there might be a great Product from Beef, Hides, Tallow, Wool, Linnen and Woollen Cloath, Improvement of Woods, Herring and White-Fishing, Mines, Iron Mills, &c. which, and many other things lie dormant. Neither is it strange that it is thus; for there is little or no Notice taken of that Vast Countrey by the Government, save appointing a Commission of Justiciary, and keeping Garrison in some places, which however necessary it may be for helping to keep the Peace, now in time of Peace; yet that is not the only Way to promote Vertue and the Knowledge of GOD among the *Highlanders*. And certain it is, there hath been an Error or Defect in the first Concoction of any Means, that hath hitherto been used for
Reducing

Reducing the *Highlanders*: for these have acted only upon the outward-Man; whereas, they are to be gained rather by Humane than Violent Measures.

In a word, the most effectual Methods for remedying of these Evils, is *Instruction*, since Coercive Laws, and sending of Colonies have much miscarried, as to the full Effect desirable; and this cannot be had without Funds, for Encouragement to Ministers and School-Masters, and even for maintaining Scholars: Seing it is found by Experience, in a late Instance at *Abertarph*, that they will not come, even to a Free School, without that. And the mighty Influence of Instruction, is evident, not only from Reason, but likewise from Experience, it being known what length the Families of *Argyle*, *Ashel*, *Macleod*, *Grant*, and others have brought some of their Highland Countreys, mainly by that Mean.

In order to render this Mean Universal, it is to be considered, *First*, Whence Funds may be raised. *2dly*. How they are to be administrat. *3dly*. Whether it be not the Duty, Honour and Interest of all in the Nation, whether nigh to, or Remote from the Highlands, to be concerned to raise a Fund for this End:— And because this last is Preliminary, let it be considered, that Instruction makes known, one's Duty, particularly not to Steal, Robb, or Kill, &c. And likewise that it is Duty to be industrious in Improvements. And should we not have Pity upon our Fellow-Creatures, and remember they have Immortal Souls, who are perishing for lake of Knowledge. And is it not a Reproach to us, that in a Christian Kingdom there should be such Disorders, and so little done for Remedying thereof. But it is hoped the Members of the High Court of Parliament will once take this Matter to their serious Consideration; And now when it hath pleased GOD to put it in the heart of Strangers, as well as some among our selves, to compassionat the poor Highlanders, particularly in raising a Fund for Translating the BIBLE and other Books in Irish; and Mr. Kirkwood and others in London, have lately Collected upwards of 12000 Merks in Books and Money, for Erecting Libraries in these Places, and several Charitable Persons in Edinburgh, and thereabout, and else where, have privately contributed, and offered to give some Money for Erecting Schools in the Highlands, and some of them have, as it was called for, payed in what they subscrib'd for, and for some time have kept a Free School at *Abertarph*, and others are still willing to contribute. And shall it be thought that the Representatives of the Nation will not encourage so good a Design, no? better Things are expected from them, For, if they shall not put to their hand, this Work is fair to cease.

Instruction can only be had by Schools and Ministers, and neither of them can be had or kept in diverse parts of the Highlands, without Maintainance and Protection from the Government. And at present there is great Scarcity of Persons, having the *Irish* Language, who have Learning fitting them to be Ministers or School-masters, that can be prevailed with to undertake that Work in that Country, except in *Argyle-shire*, and the Western Highlands; As also there is great Want of Funds to subsist them. And it is in vain to expect, that the Laws appointing Stipends, can take Effect at present, amongst such a People, though if they once found the Profit and Pleasure of these Blessings, they may in a short time come to make them their Choice, and not stand to bestow as liberally on them as their Neighbours. But the Verity is, they are generally

so poor at present, that they have not to bestow, and this Poverty is occasioned by their Idleness, many of them having no Employment, but to Robb and steal, and to wait on their Chiefs; yea some of them will not stand to let their Land ly waste for some years, and wait on their Chiefs, or Branches of their Clanns.

But to induce furdur unto this, It would be considered that this is a Publick Interest, incumbent especially on such an August Assembly of the Nation as this, not only as Christians, Men, Scots-Men, and those under one Monarchy, and consequently under the special Obligations of a Society among themselves: But likewise, its evidently the Interest, as it will be the Honour, not only of the Circumjacent Countrys all along, about the foot of the Hills *South* and *North*, but also the whole Nation, however remote in the *South* and *West*.

For if ever Popery be attempted to be introduced, here is a Force; If an Invasion of Forraigners be undertaken, here is Assistance; If there be any Domestick Troubles, here are Banditty ready to break out, meerly for Pillage; If there be a Dearth, here are many Idle Mouths to consume the Stock of Provision; If there be Peace, here is occasion for Garisons of standing Forces; And if we look to Trade, here are Thousands lyng conveniently, that will make Trade only on their Neighbours, so long as they remain in the present State they are in. If we would prevent a National Curse, for Tolerating such Errour and Vice? The Cause is to be removed, but if this People were reduced to Religion and Humanity, that Country (in case there happen a Persecution) might be like the Valleys of *Piedmont*: If Lowlanders design to Cultivat Ground, or set up a Traffique in the Continent or Harbours in that Countrey, the reducing it to Civility, would open a Door thereto, having thereby Conversation, Servants and Security: If Creditors to High and Debtors would be helped, they will thereby have access to make legal Executions; If we would better the Ballance of our Trade, and keep in our own Money amongst our selves, the *Improvement* that may be made there, in Relation both to its Manufacture and Traffique, particularly as to Cornes, Cattle, Sheep, Woods, Fishing, &c. will vastly promote it; If we would not lose, and give up to Idleness, or Rapine, many *Ingenious* and *Excellent* Spirits, that are there, they are to be instructed in what they know not: And seing generally they are very Disciplinable, as appears by their profound Obedience to their Chiefs, and (where they understand it) well disposed to receive the Gospel, the care of not losing so many Bodies and Souls, which perish for want of Knowledge, does certainly ly on us as a Nation: If we would have our Nation to be more considerable, because more United, its our Interest to use such Means, as will bring off these Countreys from a separat or Forraigne Interest, in which they commonly are; Yea, what is laid out upon this head, will in effect be a saving of Money, or keeping us from that Loss to which we might be Obnoxious to, by Highland Hosts and raising Taxations for Repressing them, &c. besides the other Advantages, both Negative and Positive above hinted, and many more, which will easily occur to any Man of the least Reflection.

For remeeding many of these Evills (which the Dead Letters of Laws can never Redress.) There hath been several Noble Attempts, such as hat of the *Viscount of Tarbat* for a private Contribution to the Errecting a *Schola Illustris* at *Inverness*, and others before-

fore-mentioned; So that we are not altogether shamed by the *Romish* Church, who are at such Expenses and Hazard in going over the World for Instructing the Race of Mankind, tho indeed as they frequently make them, more the Children of the Devil than before; so we but too much *Neglect* our very *Brethren* at our own Doors: But its certain in the first place, That this Happy Design can never be Effectuat without the Assistance and Countenance of Authority.

In the next place, The Foundation Stones are to be first laid, before a greater Superstructure on them be projected, and consequently the first step, is to instruct that People, in the Principles of Humanity, and Religion, and to give them so much of the Language, as to be capable to converse with Lowlanders, which leads unto the other part of this Discourse.

As to the other heads proposed, namely how *Funds* can be raised for maintaining *Ministers & School-Masters* in the *Highlands*, and likewise for keeping some of the *Highland Boys* at the next adjacent Schools, in the *Lowlands*, all along about the foot of the *Highlands*, and giving them due Encouragement for coming thither, whereby there may be Seminaries of many returning home, with Knowledge and Language to their own Country, and of others fit for Learning, who are further to be improved, in order to the Teaching of Schools, or the Ministry, of whom there is a Lamentable want at present, and how such Funds can be Administrat both with Diligence, and security against Imbazlement, and without ground of Jealousie to any; In this Matter be Countenanced by His Grace Her Majesties High Commissioner, and the Estates of Parliament, there will be Schemes presented thereanent, and for giving some View how this may be made Practicable, the following Method may be Considered, as a Subject of Thoughts, being always under Correction and Enlargement.

Before I go further, it is necessary to object an Objection, that many do make against such Methods of Erecting Schools in the *Highlands*, *Viz.* That there are Acts of Parliament already made for a School in every Paroch, and Funds provided to them? But in Answer to this, Many Years Experience hath made it Evident, That these Acts cannot be made Effectual in the *Highlands*, for many Reasons, such as the Poverty of the *Highlands*, their being unacquainted with the Advantage of Learning, and these who should Execute these Laws anent Schools are very Negligent, and many other Reasons which are obvious to all.

There are already Schools in the Adjacent Towns to the *Highlands*, such as, *Inverness, Forreß, Reeth, Kincairdin o neil, Brichan, Perth, &c.* And as there is cheap living in these Towns, so some course would be thought upon, to oblige such of the *Highlanders* as live near these Places; and are able, to send at least one of their Sons to these Schools; But seeing there are but few that are able to keep their Children at Schools at any distance from themselves. It is necessary a Fund be thought upon to assist them, and in order to raise a Fund for that end; Let in the first place, all the *Vacant Stipends*, both in the *Highlands* themselves, and Circumjacent Parishes (who have a great Interest in the Education of their Highland Neighbours) be applied for this purpose, except in so far as, the necessary Emergencies of each Parish, are found by the Administrators after-mentioned to Delault from the same; But seeing this will be but very inconsiderable

able now, most of the Kirks in the Lowlands being planted. It is proposed, In the

Second place, That there may be a *General Voluntar Contribution* by Authority of Parliament, through the whole Kingdom for this End, and that the Reverend Commissioner of the *General Assembly*, may seriously recommend the same, and with the Act of Parliament, send a Monitory in Print, for Exciting to so necessary a Duty, beyond what is given at ordinary Collections, in regard that this is to be designed for a perpetual Fund, and may come to save the Nation from much Mischief that often arises out of these parts, and may in-time come to ease the Lowlands of the great Burden of Multitudes of Poor, that come yearly, down from the Highlands for want of Food and Work.

In the Third place, If this Project were once Countenanced by Authority, and the Funds lodged in safe Hands, in which Men would have Confidence of their not Miscarrying, there is no doubt but pious Persons would leave Legacies, not only at Home, but even some of those who in England and Ireland, lay out such vast Sums for propagating the Knowledge of GOD; And therefore these Schools ought to be made Capable of Mortifications, not to be diverted under severe Penalties.

Fourthly, There is some Experience already about the School at Abertarph, how great a Sum might be raised by Subscriptions of the Nobility, Gentry, Burges, Ministers, Cities and Incorporations, &c. for so Noble a Work, if in every place through the Kingdom, Ministers, Elders, and Deacons (upon Recommendation by the Commission of the General Assembly, as said is) and others, would take pleasure in, and not decline the Trouble of this Charitable Work. But the flourishing of such a design, depends mostly upon the right Administration of it.

As to which, In the General, it will miscarry except it be put in such Hands as will think themselves bound in Conscience and Reputation to move in it with Diligence and Faithfulness, for others will not be at the Fatigue without Profit, and this may incline to lay the Burden of this Work, First on the Ministers of the Gospel, and that they should have a Chief Hand in the Administration; yet this is to be done with great Temperament of Caution, that neither the Ministers (whose Office will much divert them) have too much Power, nor want the Authority, Assistance and Cheerful Concurrence of the Gentry of the bounds, but on the Contrary, the one of them may be Aiding to the other, and all of them have a due Dependance in this matter upon the Government of the State; In order whereunto it may be considered, if it be not Convenient that the Management be put in the Hands of a certain Number of Ministers and others, in or about *Edinburgh*, to be chosen by the Privy Council, out of a List to be given to them, by the Commission of the General Assembly, or General Assembly it self, and they are from time to time, to give the necessary orders for Collecting and bringing in the said Contribution, and to write to and advise with the Ministers, Presbyteries, and Synods Concerned in the Highlands, and having got Information therefrom, are to distribute the said Contribution, and Direct the same to the Respective Synods concerned, in such quota's as the said Managers at *Edinburgh* shall see cause. And that four Ministers be chosen yearly, by each of the said Synods, as also four Heritors by the Commissioners of Supply of the Shire, and four of the Council of the Respective Burghs, to be chosen by the said Heritors and Ministers joining together, but all of them to be countable to the Lords of Session, or such as their Lordships shall appoint, either before themselves or any other Judges.

Then

Then Particular Collectors would be Nominate, for gathering in the Vacant S. i-
pends, and other Funds within each Synod, and which Collectors are to be Responsi-
ble Men, to be chosen by the saids Managers in each Synod, of whom they are to take
Sufficient Caution, to be Comptable to them twice every year.

The laying out the Money allotted for the Bounds of each Synod, as also the Settle-
ment of Boarding-Houses &c. in each Town, Erecting of Schools, paying School-Mas-
ters, is to be by the said Committee of four Heretors, four Ministers and four Burges-
ses, or any Three of them which is to be a Quorum, who may appoint under them
Managers in every Town where such Settlements are to be made.

That the stated Accounts of the Managers in each Synod foresaid, and their Col-
lectors, be laid Yearly or oftener when called for, before the Administrators at *Edin-
burgh*, to whom they are to be Countable, and in case of Male Administration, may
be pursued before any Judge Ordinary, the Collector of the General Contributions
being always Accountable to the Administrators at *Edinburgh*, and may be pursued
before the Lords of Session or any Judge Ordinary, at the instance of such as the saids
Administrators shall appoint.

If there be a superplus Fund, the saids Administrators shall have the Allocation
thereof, for sending such as are fit of the said Schoolars, to *Colledges* or *Trades*, &c.

And in the next place, it is to be Considered who shall have the Determination of
the Salaries, to be appointed for these Collectors, who shall have the power of Secur-
ing and Lending out the Money which is to be stocked; and it is thought this must be
done by the Administrators at *Edinburgh*.

And for the better Accomplishing this Design, of Instructing the *Highlanders*; It is
Humbly proposed that at the First Settling up, there may be but two Settlements for
Bursaries, one at *Inverness* and another at *Perth* for maintaining Six Schoolars, in each
yearly, on the Annual rent of 20000 *merks* Stock, and seeing its the Children of the
more Substantial Tennants in the *Highlands*, who will fall to come to the Schools, the
Parents or their Friends, before admission, are to find Caution, that after five, more
or fewer years, they shall furnish to their Sons a Stock of Cattle, for setting up in a
Particular Heretors Land (who will thereby be induced to forward the Execution)
at Returning to the Country, which is a Patrimony that will encourage their return,
and the Value of the Stock should be proportionable to the Expence laid out on the
Childrens Education.

And seeing Her Majesty in her most Gracious Letter to the late General Assembly, was pleased
to Recommend to them, to be Solicitously careful of what may advance the interest of the Re-
formed Protestant Religion, and for Suppressing the Growth of Popery, and for that end,
did Recommend to the General Assembly to see to the Planting of Churches with well Qualified
Ministers, especially amongst the Remoter Highlanders and Islanders, looking upon that,
as the Greatest and Best mean of Rooting out the Popish Errors, Immoralities and Prophan-
ness; And with all promising, to give Directions to Her Majesty's Privy Council, for the Exact
Application of Her Royal Authority, and Laws to these good ends: And likewise in Her
Gracious Letter to this present Parliament, after Recommending many things necessary
for the good of her Ancient Kingdom, wherein she expected the Concurrence and Assistance
of

of Her Parliament; Her Majesty's Zeal in that matter is such, that She is pleased to say, BUT CHIEFLY that Effectual means, may be laid down for promoting of Religion, Virtue, and True Piety, and Suppressing Vice, and Immorality and Providing for the Poor. It is humbly purposed that upon this Encouragement, Application may be made to Her Majesty, for some of the Bishops Rents for the ends foresaid, and for Defraying the Charges of Ministers to be sent to Travel through the Highlands; Especially those places where the Reformation from Popery never as yet got any Footing, there being not only danger to Travel there, but also a great paucity of Ministers having Irish to be sent thither, and in many places little or no Fund for their Maintainance, and there can be no better way of Employing these Rents, and if this were once done, it were Worthy of the General Assemblys Pains, to send Particular Committees of Ministers and Ruling Elders, who are best Acquainted with the Highlands, to Visite the same and take time thereto, and not do it Slightly; And Ministers may in the mean time be Preaching to and Catechising the People, and the Elders may Perambulate the Country, and give their Opinion, where Kirks may be more Conveniently Erected, and where it is needful to Disjoin, or Annex, parts of Parishes, and likeways where Schools may be Erected, for it cannot be Expected that Schools can be had in every Parish so soon, and the Heritors would be required by Authority to assist the said Committee, in Perambulating their Bounds.

And upon Report of the said Committee, Application may be made to the Parliament or Commission thereof for Plantation of Kirks, to Erect new Parishes, or Disjoin and annex parts of old Parishes, as shall be found needfull, and particular Notice would be taken of the Isles of Hirta or St. Kilda and other Islands, and Ministers and Catechists provided for them.

And this being done, it could be wished that these Concerned in the Highlands, would be at pains to have brought amongst them, some from the Lowlands (after the Example of the Noble Marquess of Argyle) and even from other Kingdoms, Persons who are Vertuously inclined, who may be set to Work, for the better Improvement of that Country, and it were very necessary more Garisons were Planted in the Highlands for some time, for the Encouragement of Sober Persons to go thither.

This is Humbly Recommended to the Serious Consideration of His Grace Her Majesty's High Commissioner and most Honourable Members of Parliament, and the Concurrence and Assistance of the Reverend Commission of the General Assembly, according to their Instructions And the Assistance of all good Christians and Country-Men in their Respective Stations, is Expected and Earnestly Intreated, in order to the making of this Design Effectual.

E I N I S.



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